

expended, all capacity of motion is at an end. But the heart produces a force equal to the pressure of sixty pounds by the gentlest application of a bland fluid. Here no force is communicated to be again given out, as in every mechanical moving power; but it is new power, power really and properly generated; and this power is the result of vital action, and is never in any case the result of action that is not vital." p. 391.

But all this, it may be said, is mere physiology! What has it to do with the "Philosophy of Health?" Every topic discussed, in the volume before us, is altogether preliminary;—the *denouement*—the more purely hygienic portion we must look for in the future volume or volumes, for, from the way in which the present is occupied, we have a right to expect more than one before the subject is exhausted.

R. D.

XVIII. *Kritisch-etymologisches Medicinisches Lexikon oder Erklärung des Ursprungs der besonders aus dem Griechischen in die Medicin und in die zunächst damit verwandten Wissenschaften aufgenommenen Kunstausdrücke, zugleich als Beispielsammlung für jede künftige Physiologie der Sprache, entwerfen.* Von LUDWIG AUGUST KRAUS, Dr. Philos. et Medic. legens zu Göttingen, Mitglied der Königl. Preuss. Gesellschaft der Aerzte und Wundärzte zu Berlin, der Grössherzoglichen Gesellschaft für die gesammte Mineralogie zu Jena u. a. gel. Gesellschaften. Zweite, stark vermehrte, Auflage. Göttingen, 1826. 8vo. pp. 880.

Nachtrag zu dem Kritisch-etymologischen Medicinischen Lexikon. Von LUDW. AUG. KRAUS, M. S. W. Göttingen, 1832. 8vo. pp. 420.

A Critico-etymological Medical Dictionary, or Explanation of the Origin of the Technical expressions derived from the Greek especially, and employed in Medicine and the intimately associated Sciences, &c. By L. A. KRAUS.
Supplement to the same, &c.

"It is the fate of those"—says the great English lexicographer, in the preface to the folio edition of his Dictionary of the English language—"who toil at the lower employments of life, to be rather driven by the fear of evil, than attracted by the prospect of good; to be exposed to censure without hope of praise; to be disgraced by miscarriage, or punished for neglect, where success would have been without applause, and diligence without reward. Among these unhappy mortals is the writer of dictionaries, whom mankind have considered, not as the pupil, but the slave of science, the pioneer of literature, doomed only to remove rubbish and clear obstructions from the paths, through which learning and genius press forward to conquest and glory, without bestowing a smile on the humble drudge that facilitates their progress. Every other author may aspire to praise; the lexicographer can only hope to escape reproach; and even this negative recompense has been yet granted to very few."

But, although this is the fate, which the lexicographer has to anticipate, there are some splendid exceptions to it; and one of the most prominent is the case of the distinguished writer, who, in the passage we have cited, has so eloquently deplored the misfortunes of the craft, and who, with unnecessary humility, designates the *lexicographer* as "a writer of dictionaries; a harmless drudge, that busies himself in tracing the original, and detailing the signification of words."

Yet how few men could have produced the dictionary, which has added perhaps as much renown to the name of Johnson, as any of his other undertakings. Something more than drudgery is requisite: clearness of conception, readiness and accuracy of discrimination, and perspicuity of definition are all demanded, and but very few are met with who possess these qualifications; whilst, on the other hand, every individual esteems himself capable of criticizing, especially where so many opportunities are afforded as in the pages of a dictionary;—

“A man must serve his time to ev’ry trade
Save censure. Critics all are already made.”

The author of the dictionary before us is one of those laborious students of whom Germany affords us so many examples. His vocabulary is confined chiefly to the technical terms of Greek origin, but as this is the language chosen, by common consent, for the formation of the scientific terms that are needed in the progress of science, it is sufficiently comprehensive. His work displays great learning, and accuracy, and we are pleased to observe, that he has given due attention to the quantity of words, so as to regulate the pronunciation. It is, indeed, a matter of regret to observe the utter neglect of orthoëpy amongst the profession, even in the case of terms, regarding the quantity of which there cannot be a shadow of dispute. A difference of sentiment may exist as to the vowel sounds; whether *i* for example, shall be pronounced according to the English or the Scotch, and Continental fashion,—*gastritis* or *gastrētis*; but, there can be no diversity of opinion respecting the impropriety of making the *i* short, as in *gas’tritis*. Yet we are constantly doomed to observe mistakes in quantity even from medical teachers, by whom the errors are handed down to the student, and thus perpetuated. We hear *ab’domen*, *duod’enum*, *umbil’icus*, *tinn’itus aurium*, *cō’nium*, *parenchy’ma*, *hæmateme’sis*, *hæmpty’sis*, &c. although the quantity in every case is uniform and settled.

We have said, that the Greek is now selected as the language from which the technical terms are to be formed, but we frequently meet with words of a hybrid formation, partly composed of Greek and partly of Latin, and these adopted by good writers; only, however, because they have become conventional. *Conjunctivitis*, *duodenitis*, &c. are precisely in this case, and have been properly objected to by the author before us.

“*Conjunctivitis* is used to signify inflammation of the conjunctiva, (oculi)! very improperly compounded from *conjunctiva*, with the Greek ending—*itis*.” p. 236.

“*Duodenitis*, barbarously formed in place of *dodecadactylitis*.” p. 290.

“*Dodecadactylitis*,—an inflammation of the duodenum; like *iritis*, &c. formed from

“*Dodēcadactylon* or—*um*, (intestinum, *εντερον*), *δωδεκαδακτυλον*? the ‘twelve finger gut,’ (Zwölfffingerdarm,) the *duod’enum*; from *dodeca*, (*δωδεκα*, ‘twelve,’) and *dactylus*, (*δακτυλος*, ‘a finger.’) It is therefore much more significant than the Latin *duodenum*, although not so good as the German; *Zwölfffingerdarm*!” p. 286.

The work of M. Kraus is well adapted for the purpose intended, although there is occasionally—and especially in the “*Nachtrag*”—a needless display of learning, in adducing the definitions given by the older writers. R. D.

* Literally, “twelve finger gut.”—R. D.